

*The*

# *Historian*

*of Hancock County**Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi**APRIL 1996***APRIL HAPPENING**

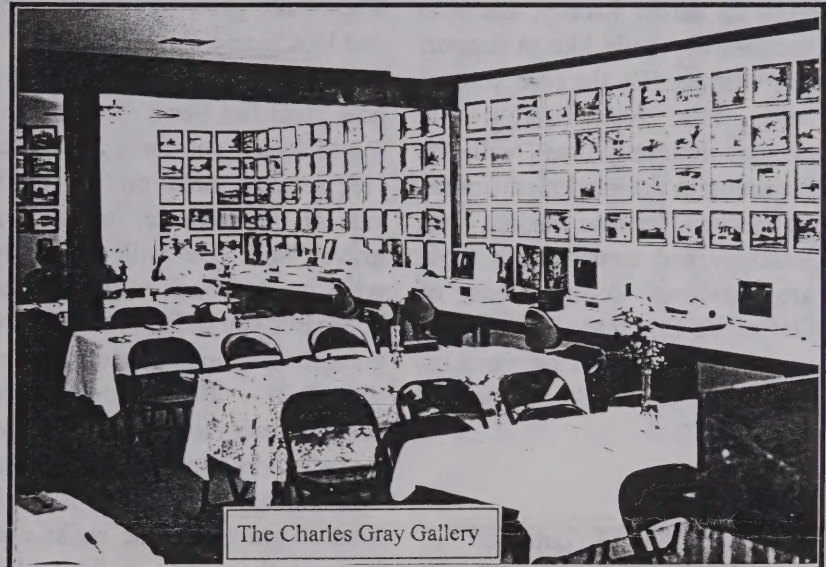
In lieu of a luncheon meeting this month, we are proud to sponsor the viewing of the newly-restored Onward Oaks house on South Beach Boulevard. The enclosed brochure includes all details of the event. We hope to see you there. It's a wonderful opportunity for all of us to view this classic structure in great detail. Also, the area's dealers in the finest antiques are fitting all of the rooms with period furniture, all of which will be for sale, with a commission from proceeds to benefit our Society. There will be an entrance fee of \$5.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We held the March meeting in the new room of the Loblano House and served lunch to over sixty people. Maealys Swartzenbruber and her ladies did a marvelous job preparing and serving lunch and Admiral Paul Gaffney of the Naval Oceanographic Command gave a very informative talk.

Being President of the Historical Society is a wonderful job. One gets to tell all the "Happy news" every month.

I doubt you will run into a more thankful guy than I these



days, so may I begin:

Thank you, Rudy and Clare Jung of Bay Carpets Inc for donating all the carpet for our new room. I did not think we would be able to afford it this year but thanks to the generosity of you two wonderful members, we are walking on carpet, NOW. It looks great.

Our friend, Clara who used to live in Bay Saint Louis, (the same lady who donated the money to pay for our airconditioning system) has also paid for our kitchen - TWO Amana ranges, an Amana refrigerator and the kitchen sink including a disposal. We have had a sign made "La Cuisine de Clara" and named the room in her honor. Thank you Clara.

(Continued on page 2)

**THE PALACES OF ST. PETERSBURG**

There are still a few openings for the tour to Jackson on Thursday, May 16 sponsored by Gather Ye Rosebuds, the group of antique rose lovers recently organized by Melinda Richard. The tour includes round trip bus fare, champagne buffet dinner and one night at the Walthall Hotel, admission to the fabulous exhibit of the Palaces of St. Petersburg, admission to the J.B. Ross Agricultural Center to view its extensive rose garden, and return trip on May 17. The cost, including tax and tip, is \$115 per person, double occupancy. If a single occupancy is preferred, this can be

(Continued on page 2)



## **PALACES from page 1**

arranged for an additional \$32.50. We are hoping that our members will be well represented on the tour. Not only because we are proud that Mississippi was chosen for the exhibit of a selection of Russia's finest palaces from its earlier history, but also because we would like to support this venture. By the time you receive this Newsletter, some choice antique roses will be blooming in the garden of Lobrano House. The rose bushes, soil, walkway and considerable labor are generous contributions of Gather Ye Rosebuds. For a reservation for the tour or more information, call Melinda Richard at 467-3008.

## **PRESIDENT continued**

donated the icemaker and Dan Young's crew installed it gratis. This will be appreciated more every day as the summer approaches. Thank you Marlene and Richard and Dan.

One of the Society's "Silent Angels" who requested anonymity, donated money designated for the purchase of the fixtures for our handicap bathroom. I told her that we would go ahead and order the fixtures but that she would have to promise not to use them until someone donates the pipes to connect them.

We have purchased 29 additional folding chairs with donations designated specifically for them. We still need a few more and some tables.

Another of our Silent Angels has loaned us the money for the

kitchen cabinets and they are being built with beaded board doors to match the counter pass-through.

Barbara and Sam Scafidi of Evergreen Florist and Garden Center donated the Impatiens for our garden and I planted them just before the rain last week. They have grown a (small) foot and look grand.

I will never be able to tell you how great Jim Bell's roses are going to look - you must come see. He installed beds on the north side of the entrance, including a gravel walk that will eventually wind its way back to the kitchen door (Bet you didn't know we are going to have one of those either, did you?). Jim has turned the soil halfway to China and installed liners for the beds to prevent weeds. He hauled a truck load of gravel for the walks and is presently putting in the mulch to fill the beds.

For those who might not know, one of our members, Melinda Richard, organized a group of rose-lovers called Gather Ye Rosebuds. Many of her members are also Historical Society members. So far, they have provided Jim Bell with eleven "Old garden" rosebushes for our garden as follows: Mrs. Margaret McNeeley; Mrs. Edith Back in honor of her brother, Dr. David Bierhorst; Mr. and Mrs. John J. Richard; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hyman; Mrs. Katherine Travelbee to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of James & Ethelmae Fillingame; Mrs. Danna Piazza in memory of Mable Piazza; Mrs. Jo Ann Mumme in memory of Eldon Mumme; Mr. and Mrs. Van Ness Tanner in memory of Mr. H. Randolph

Brown; Mrs. Jo Ann Livingston in memory of Linda Adams; Mrs. Karen Flores in memory of Martha Carey; Mrs. Cynthia Lowe in memory of Donald Lowe. These roses bloom profusely and the bushes are very hardy.

Resident Angel, Meg Hilliker has donated the next \$500 payment on the new copy machine for us, leaving a balance of \$1000 with no interest if paid within 90 days. Meg has also offered to lend us "transition" money if we need it between now and the time proceeds start coming in from Camp Onward.

Emile Stieffel built a marvelous podium for our stage. I may never hush now, especially saying "Thank You".

Actually, I am more thankful than this, but other donors have forbidden me to mention them or their gifts.

Charles Gray, President

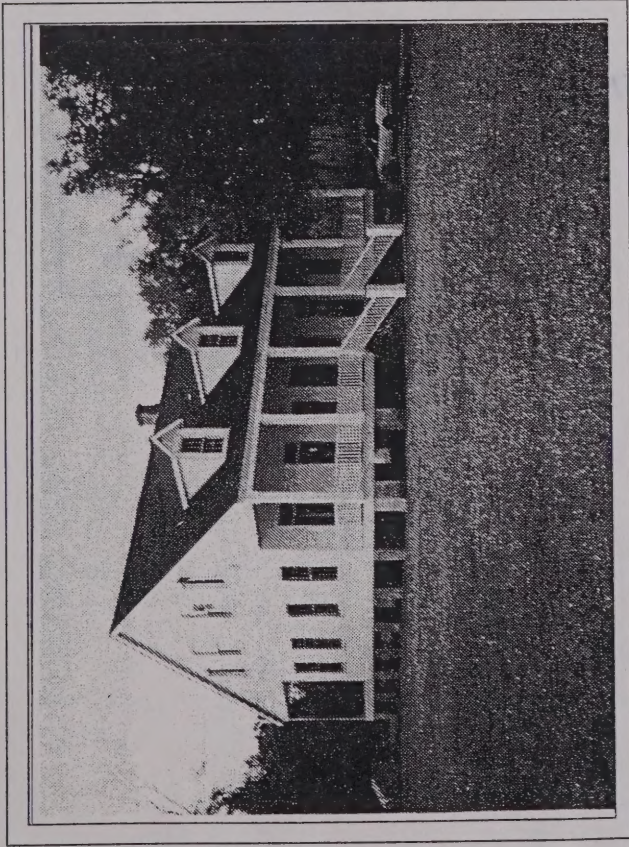
## **COAST'S OUTSTANDING THIEF**

Cole Denham, otherwise known as Jim Cole, has, by his robberies on the sea shore of Mississippi, obtained the unenviable title of the Pirate of the Gulf.

Cole's manner of a proceeding was to enter a house at night and clean it out completely, never forgetting to visit the kitchen, which suffered as kitchens never suffered before.

Such was Cole's success in going through houses without hindrance, it has been unfeelingly suggested that the robbed parties were either in collusion with the blarsted pirate or when a





## ONWARD OAKS

972 South Beach Boulevard  
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

This beautiful beachfront home overlooking the Mississippi Sound at the entrance to the Bay of Saint Louis will be presented by the

### HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

for viewing on

Friday, April 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday, April 21, Noon to 3 p.m.

Friday, May 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday, May 5, Noon to 3 p.m.

Friday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday, April 28, Noon to 3 p.m.

Friday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday, May 12, Noon to 3 p.m.

This Nineteenth Century home is a raised Creole Cottage with Greek Revival and Italianate influences overlooking the Bay of Saint Louis at the Mississippi Sound. The central entrance has double-leaf, Italianate doors with arched half-glazing and wood panels below. It is flanked by six-over-six, double-hung windows. Also under the broad front gallery are four double-leaf, French doors topped by three-light transoms. There are three gabled dormers on both the front and rear facades.

The interior has a 16 foot wide central hall flanked by two rooms on either side. The original floors and wooden Renaissance Revival mantels remain and the balusters and post brackets have been replicated in the original design.

It is believed that Onward Oaks began as a typical Gulf Coast summer cottage since deed records show that ownership changed several times and none of the names are found in the nineteenth century Hancock County census records, indicating absentee ownership.

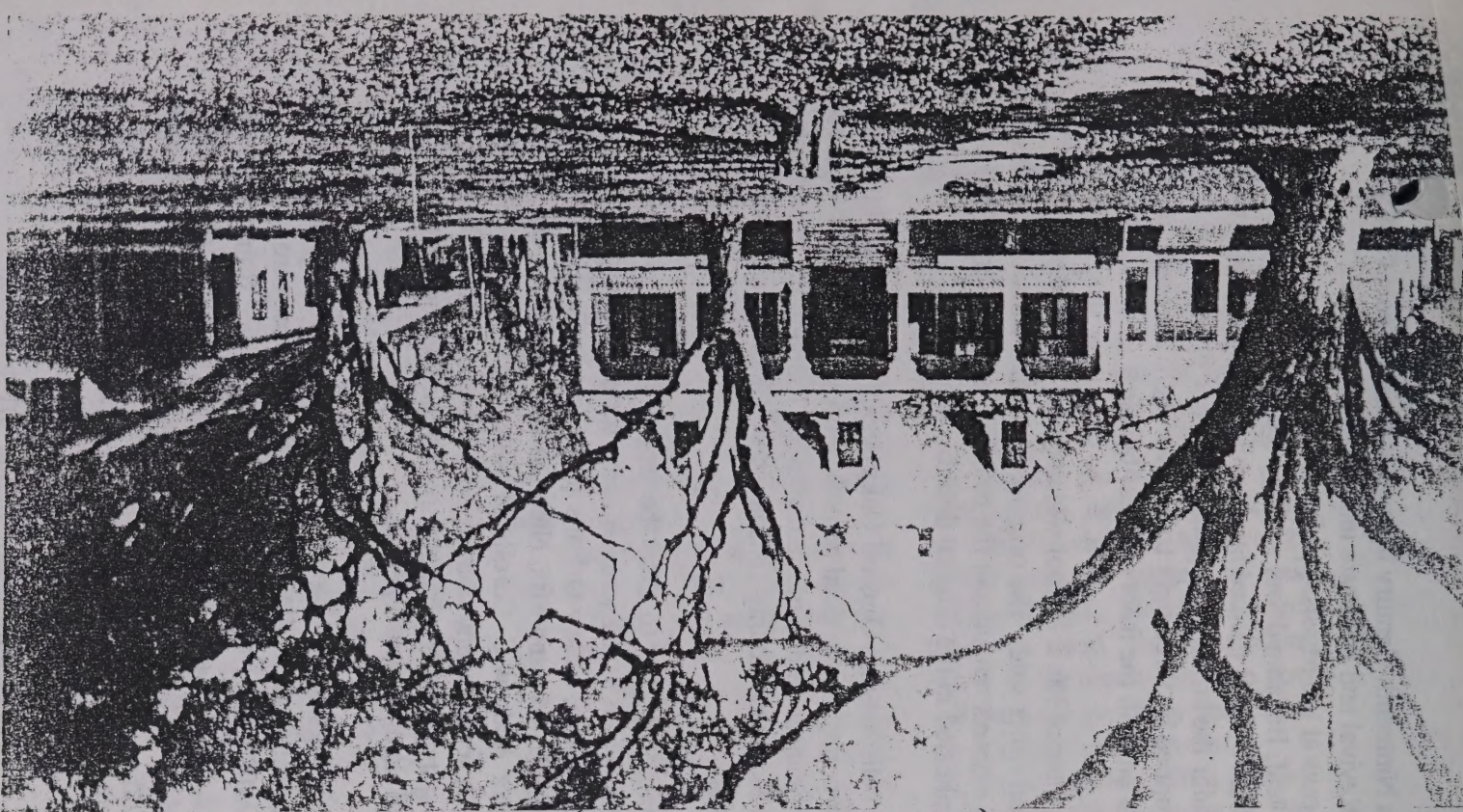
From about 1920 to 1969 the property served as **Camp Onward**, which was a summer camp for children operated by Kingsley House, a New Orleans settlement house, the first in the entire South. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas B. Tournillon who, with contractor Andrew C. Corollo of Majestic Homes in Slidell, have effected a sensitive and comprehensive restoration of the property including its grounds, olympic-size swimming pool and outbuildings from the Camp Onward period.

Furnishings compatible to the house are being provided by area antique dealers and will be available for purchase through the Historical Society. (A magnificent bed, removed from the house many years ago is on loan for this showing by Tom Cottom and Mike Mayo of Countryside Antiques in Waveland. This bed will not be offered for sale).

## \$5 DONATION

For information phone 601 467-4090





MISSISSIPPI

(CAMP ONWARD)

BEAUTIFUL

BAY ST. LOUIS

# ONWARD OAKS

VISIT

## *HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

Post Office Box 312

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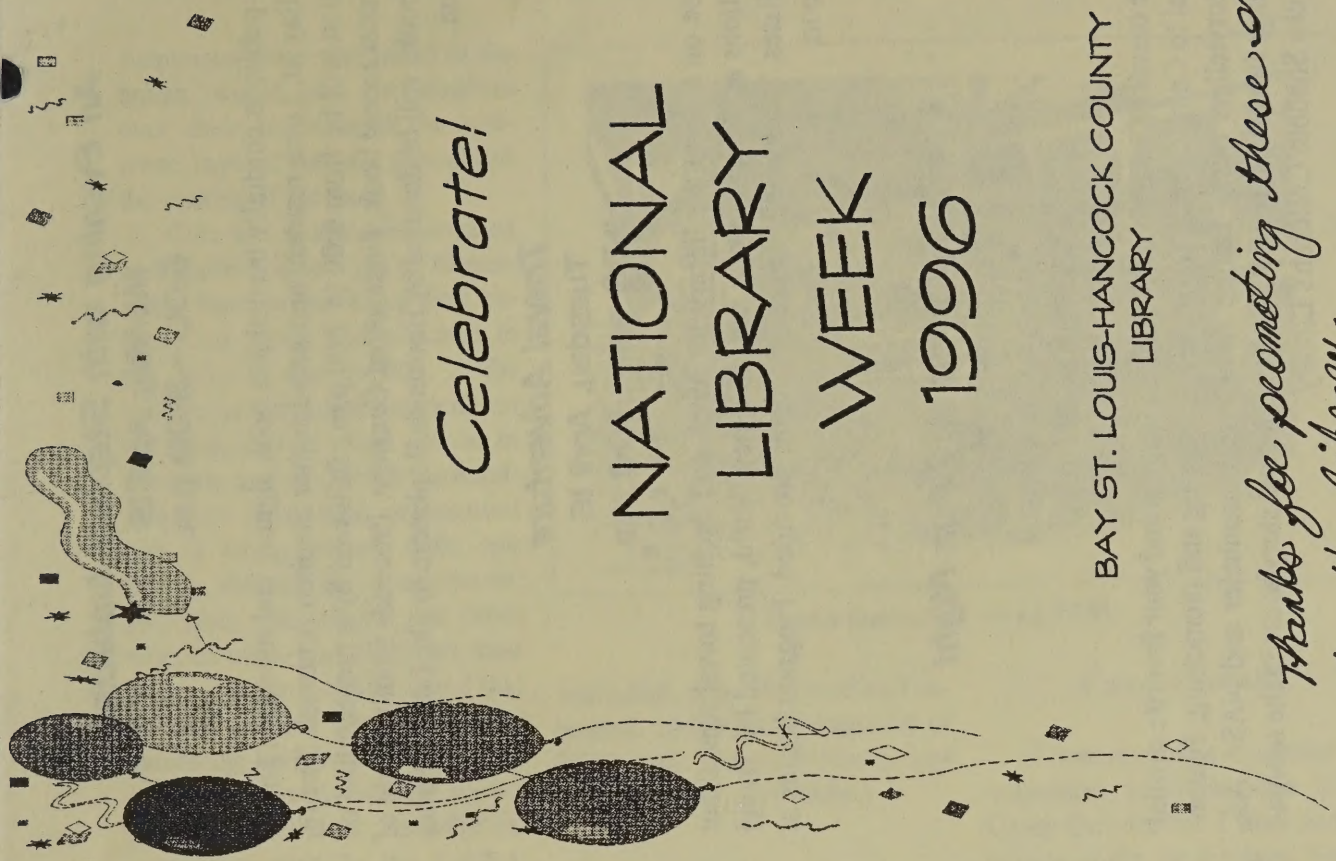
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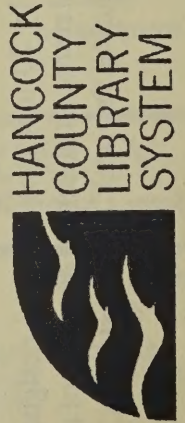


*Celebrate!*

# NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 1996

BAY ST. LOUIS-HANCOCK COUNTY  
LIBRARY

For more information, contact  
Mary Perkins or Janice Parrott at 467-5282.



*Thanks for promoting these events  
for the library.  
Janice Parrott  
Public Service Coordinator*



## ***An Evening with Stephen Ambrose***

**Monday, April 15**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

The public is cordially invited to a book signing and reception honoring Bay St. Louis resident and noted author Stephen Ambrose. The reception will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by a presentation on his most recent book, *Undaunted Courage*. Proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated by Bookends Bookstore to The Library Foundation.

## ***Travel Adventure***

**Tuesday, April 16**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Cruise on over to the library for lunch and exciting travel tips about vacations at sea and family fun at Disney World, presented by Travel Affiliates. Sandwiches and refreshments provided. Program begins at 12 noon.

## ***Family Reading and Fun Night at Camp Library***

**Tuesday, April 16**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Come casual or wear your PJs, bring a blanket and your favorite stuffed animal to Camp Library for stories, stargazing and picnicking. Featuring storytellers Susan Daigre and Chris Vinsonhaler and NASA Astronomer Jim McMurtrey. And tour a magical storyhouse in the Margaret Hicks Shadoin Children's Library.

## ***National Library Week Story Time***

**Wednesday, April 17**  
**10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Stories, treats, a video and refreshments await pre-schoolers and their parents during a special storytime planned around the theme of Amazing Animals.

## ***Money! Money! Money!***

**Thursday, April 18**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Have lunch and learn how to plan your financial future with tips on investments, trusts and financial planning presented by Charlie Gibbons from Hancock Bank Trust Department and Craig Foster from Edward D. Jones and Company. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Program begins at 12 noon.

## ***Hamilton Guenard Exhibit***

During the month of April, the works of Waveland artist and sculptor Hamilton Guenard will be featured in a special exhibit displayed throughout the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library.

## ***Mosaic Mural Community Art Project***

Installation of a 6 by 20 foot mosaic mural designed and created by more than 200 local residents under the direction of muralist Elizabeth Veglia will begin during the week on the exterior Ulman Avenue entrance wall.



suspicious noise was heard in the house, would pull the blankets over their heads until the welcome rays of the sun announced the coming of the morn.

Cole was at one time arrested and confined in the jail at Mississippi. Here he was taken sick, refused his meals and sickened in his dungeon day by day. His kind jailor furnished him with an oil lamp, that he might not die in the dark, and the Doctor, generally a very astute man, pronounced him a dying sinner. Cole spit blood, refused all nourishment, and when one morning the jailor went to make his customary visit to the prisoner's cell he found that he had utilized his oil and by saturating his blankets with it had burned the woodwork around the lock of his cell door, and after his customary visit to the kitchen, which he completely cleaned out, had departed for unknown shores.

The career of the grand rascal has been published from time to time and his recent capture in Mobile and transfer to the Mississippi State authorities are still fresh in the public mind.

Last week, Cole was arraigned in Harrison County Circuit Court at Mississippi City, before Judge Hamm to answer the charge of robbing the store of Mr. Theobald, at Biloxi, of four hundred and fifty dollars worth of goods. He pleaded "not guilty" but an honest jury brought in a verdict to the contrary, and Cole was sentenced by Judge Hamm to imprisonment in the Penitentiary for a term of seven years.

The Messrs. Pankin, who were indicted with him, and under whose house he was found



**Camp Onward** circa 1930

concealed, were also tried and acquitted. (From the Scrapbook of William G. Walker of Mississippi City, Miss. of 1879-1884.)

## CHARLES GRAY GALLERY

If the caption on the page one photo appeared to reflect immodesty on the part of our esteemed President, let me hasten to inform you that Charles had nothing to do with it.

At our March 21 meeting, following the suggestion of trustee Marlene Johnson, the general membership heartily approved naming the addition to Lobrano House after our president, with whom we would have no addition for another century or so.

Edith Back

## HCHS OFFICE OPEN

Ladies and gentlemen, start your machines.

## Camp Onward

There are a few vacancies for volunteers to work with us at Camp Onward for 2 hour and 15 minute shifts on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. If you have not been contacted and are interested in participating (especially Fridays May 3 and May 10) contact Mickey Burns at 467-5358

## LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MON. 8 to 4 or by  
TUE. 8 to 4 appointment  
THU. 8 to 4

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

KATE LOBRANO HOUSE - 108 CUE STREET  
or  
Mail - POST OFFICE BOX 312  
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520

*Hancock County Historical Society*

**HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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